

HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

APRIL 23, 2014

HISTORY

- **May 2008 Austin City Council passed a resolution initiating the Hispanic Quality of Life Initiative (HQL)**
- **Evaluate the quality of life for Hispanics/Latinos in Austin, TX as compared to Hispanics/Latinos nationwide**
- **A consultant coordinated community engagement efforts and combined the first phase of the report**
- **The Community Oversight Team incorporated**
 - **the consultant's information;**
 - **census data;**
 - **expert's testimony; and**
 - **community input into the second phase of the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Final Report**

HISTORY

- **The Community Oversight Team**
 - met with hundreds of community members,
 - numerous community groups and
 - hosted a Hispanic Quality of Life Town Hall
- **An additional set of recommendations for the City Council and the Austin community**
- **The Oversight Team requests that Council create a Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission**

THE HQL COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT TEAM

Teresa Perez-Wisely (Chair)

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AREAS OF INTERESTS

Education

Youth

Housing and Community Development

Cultural Arts

Economic Development

Health

Civic Engagement

Transportation

HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE

FINAL REPORT

EDUCATION

EDUCATION ISSUES

- Dropout rates in AISD in 2011 for Hispanic students in grades 9-12 was 13.1%
- 52% enrolled into a post-secondary school
- 39% were considered “college ready”
- Lack of summer youth programs, comprehensive mentoring programs, and an overall lack of training programs
- Increase collaboration between governmental, corporate and educational entities to foster student academic excellence

OUR EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Collaboration between the Joint Subcommittee of AISD, City of Austin and Travis County to consider the HQL recommendations**
- **Enhance partnerships and collaborations with local ISDs, governmental entities, area colleges and universities and nonprofit organizations.**
- **Creation of a youth court for truancy,**
- **Develop of educational programs,**
- **Implement preventative measures that will keep truant youth in school.**
- **Develop a career leadership academy**

YOUTH SERVICES

YOUTH SERVICES ISSUES

- **Hispanic/Latino youth make up a large population of the juvenile justice system**
- **Most Hispanic/Latino youth are unemployed or underemployed**
- **A lack of internships geared toward Hispanic/Latino youth**
- **Lack of resources for organized sports and other activities that promote youth development**
- **A need for organized activities for Hispanic/Latino females**

OUR YOUTH SERVICES RECOMMENDATIONS

- An increase in opportunities for programs, trainings and youth development
- Collaboration among local school districts to create programs to reduce truancy and increase graduation rates
- An increase of health services for youth.
- Programs that enhance career building and employment opportunities

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- **Increasing property appraisals are leading to much higher property tax bills**
- **There's an increased need for affordable housing.**
- **58% of the population live in rental homes**
- **Close to 50% of those renters pay a significant portion of their incomes as rent**
- **Rental housing is in short supply and the units are distributed unevenly across the city**

OUR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote affordable housing core values:
 - Long-term Affordability;
 - Geographic Dispersion; and
 - Deeper Levels of Affordability.
- Housing Trust Fund to \$1 million or more annually
- Create a local Hispanic Historic Preservation District
- Expand alternate revenue sources
- Develop affordable housing at the Betty Dunkerley Campus.
- Funding rehabilitation over demolition.
- Leadership and education for affordable housing and community development.
- Promote sustainable practices and preserve existing affordable housing.
- Include affordable housing in all future bond elections.

CULTURAL ARTS

CULTURAL ARTS ISSUES

- **Access to a high quality of life, made possible in part by cultural arts services.**
- **Hispanic/Latino arts organizations have been historically underfunded**
- **Hispanic/Latino arts cultural institutions (e.g. ESBMACC, Mexic-Arte Museum) need additional support**
- **Funding for cultural arts should reflect its proportions to the total population.**

OUR CULTURAL ARTS RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Continue to Support Hispanic/Latino Facilities**
 - Increase funding for construction, operations and programs for the ESBMACC
 - Increase funding and programming at recreation centers, senior centers and other PARD facilities
- **Continue to Support the following:**
 - 5th Street Mexican American Heritage Corridor;
 - Republic Square Park;
 - Mexic-Arte Museum;
 - Rainey Street-Historical Home Relocation; and
 - Saltillo Plaza.

OUR CULTURAL ARTS RECOMMENDATIONS

- **The creation of a stand alone City Cultural Arts Division to do the following:**
 - **Include cultural and heritage festivals**
 - **Funding for the Capacity Building Program should be reinstated**
 - **Evaluate a funding system/formula**
 - **Create an outreach program**
 - **Designate a Hispanic/Latino music liaison as part of the Music Office**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- **Economic ventures is not equal to the proportion of the total population.**
- **Lack of opportunity for knowledgeable, experienced and local Hispanics/Latinos**
- **Austin's historic Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods have already been largely displaced**
- **Workers of projects should be guaranteed decent jobs, work safety, training and living wages**

OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fund an economic development corporation (EDC) that is owned by a Hispanic/Latino that is intended to benefit local Hispanics/Latinos
- Enhance partnerships requirements to ensure funding is connected to both performance and demographics
- Expand the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office's initiatives to include identification of Hispanic/Latino businesses seeking to expand to Austin
- Support a living wage of \$11 or the Department of Labor prevailing wage for all City of Austin projects related to Chapter 380 agreements.

HEALTH

HEALTH ISSUES

- **Diabetes prevalence for the Hispanic/Latino population in Travis County was 12%**
- **Obesity prevalence for the Hispanic/Latino population in Travis County was 41.8%**
- **67% of all births to single mothers were Hispanic/Latino**
- **76% of babies born to mothers younger than 20 were Hispanic/Latino.**
- **Healthy food options are not accessible to all members of the Austin community.**
- **Lack of promotion and ineffective outreach about healthy lifestyles and health prevention programs**

OUR HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Work on improving the current service delivery model**
 - Clarify role of the City of Austin in providing health care services
- **An increased effort to cultivate and promote healthy lifestyles**
 - Address hunger in our community
 - Provide ongoing support for organizations that conduct and facilitate programs and outreach for healthy lifestyles and disease prevention
- **Funding for healthcare priorities**
 - Increased collaboration and oversight of the 1115 Medical Waiver Program funds
 - Collaborate with Central Health on providing a primary health clinic services at the Betty Dunkerley Campus
 - Increase funding for teenage pregnancy prevention

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ISSUES

- **Stronger efforts to engage the Hispanic/Latino community**
- **Increase Hispanic/Latino participation at City Council**
- **There is a lack of civic engagement across all Austin residents, including the Hispanic/Latino population.**
- **Provide bilingual, culturally sensitive presenters that will improve the community dialogue**
- **Public programs and materials are needed in both English and Spanish**

OUR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Cultural competence training to City staff on Hispanic/Latino culture**
- **Community forums to inform and train Hispanic/Latino residents on important public policy issues**
- **Create and support Hispanic/Latino leadership development programs to engage in civic participation and public policy making processes**

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

- **Lack in transportation services and strategies for Hispanic/Latino youth**
- **Lack of transportation elements needed to increase safety**
- **All schools should have school zones around their boundaries**
- **Lack of shelter at bus stops and lack of storage capacity for baby strollers on buses**

OUR TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Improve on neighborhood transportation safety issues in low income areas**
- **City work with local ISDs to ensure school zone signs are visible**
- **Focused outreach to minorities to include them in the transportation planning and decision-making processes**
- **City should work with Capital Metro to improve the bus stops, baby stroller storage and discounted fares**

Questions?

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